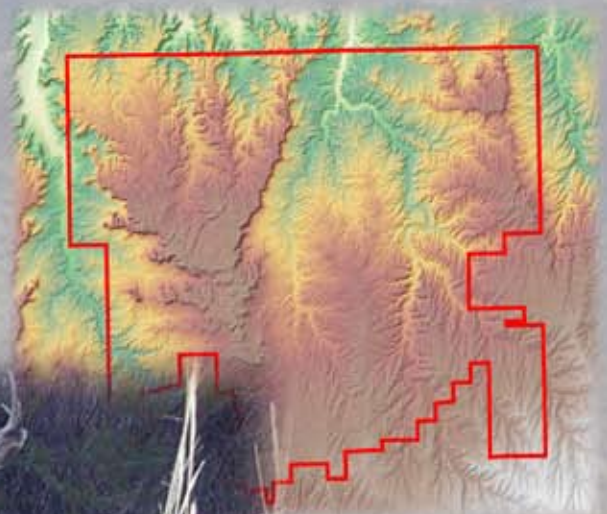


# Resource Development Group Uinta Basin Natural Gas Project

## Record of Decision

UT-080-2003-0300V

August 2006



**Record of Decision**  
**Resource Development Group Uintah Basin Natural Gas Project**  
**Prepared by the Vernal, Utah Field Office**  
**August 2006**

This document records the decision made by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to authorize the Resource Development Group (RDG) to develop hydrocarbon resources on federal lands in the East Tavaputs Plateau portion of the Uinta Basin, south of the White River. Current RDG proponents include Rosewood Resources, Inc., Dominion Exploration and Production, Inc., McElvain Oil & Gas Properties, Inc., and Enduring Resources. The RDG has proposed to develop an area encompassing approximately 79,914 acres of land within the Book Cliffs Resource Management Area, 40 miles southeast of Vernal, Utah.

The Record of Decision (ROD) and the Final EIS have been published separately. The final EIS was made available to the public for a 30-day review period (June 23, 2006 - July 24, 2006) through a Notice of Availability which was published in the Federal Register. An appeal period will occur for affected parties during the 30 days following the signing of the ROD.

## **1.0 DECISION**

The BLM has decided to approve the Agency-preferred Alternative (Alternative 2 – Additional Wildlife Considerations). This decision recognizes that oil and gas development has been ongoing within this area for over 50 years and is a valid existing right. The decision also acknowledges that there are important natural and cultural resources within the area. This decision balances the right to develop oil and gas, while protecting surface resources over the long term.

Approval of the individual, site specific, project components (e.g., well pads, access roads, and pipelines) are subject to the administrative requirements and conditions of approval listed in Section 2.0 of this document. This ROD authorizes the BLM Authorized Officer to process Applications for Permit to Drill (APDs), Sundry Notices (SNs), Rights-of-Way (ROWs), and Temporary Use Permits (TUPs) on public lands administered by the BLM for RDG operators and for companies contracted by RDG operators.

The wells would be drilled on a spacing pattern based on geology and reservoir qualities. Some areas could be developed on a 40-acre spacing pattern, while others could be drilled on spacing patterns of 160 acres or larger. It is anticipated that 40-acre well spacing would only be applied in areas of high natural gas production.

This ROD provides the BLM Authorized Officer approval to permit the following project components, subject to further site-specific analysis, on BLM-administered lands within the RDG Uinta Basin project area:

- 423 natural gas well locations, including well pads, reserve pits, flare pits, and support facilities, which would disturb approximately 1,219 acres of land.
- 125 miles of new roads with adjacent parallel utility corridors for buried water pipelines, and aboveground natural gas gathering pipelines
- One 350-horsepower compressor station
- One transmission pipeline

## 2.0 ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS AND CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

Implementation of the RDG Uintah Basin Natural Gas Project is subject to the following implementation requirements and conditions of approval.

### 2.1 Development Plans

RDG will comply with pertinent regulations and policy. RDG will drill and operate wells and conduct reclamation in accordance with the Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Additional BMPs outlined in Sections 2.1.12, 2.1.13, and 2.2.1 of the Final EIS. Before authorization of individual actions on public lands (e.g., APD, SN, ROW, TUP), the final location for each well site, access road, gathering pipeline segment, or other facility will be determined through preparation of a site-specific environmental document.

### 2.2 Interagency Coordination

In its responsibilities as the lead federal agency, the BLM consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) about potential effects on listed threatened and endangered species from project construction and operation. The USFWS reviewed the Draft EIS for the project, and provided comments.

In October 2005, the BLM submitted a Biological Assessment to the USFWS. The BLM concluded that, due to depletions from the Upper Colorado River System, the project *may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect bald eagle*; and *may affect, is likely to adversely affect Colorado pikeminnow, humpback chub, bonytail, and razorback sucker*. Regarding candidate species, the BLM concluded that the project *may affect but is not likely to adversely affect Graham's beardtongue or its habitat; may impact, but is not likely to contribute to the need for the White River beardtongue to become listed; and may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the western yellow-billed cuckoo or its habitat*.

In its Biological Opinion (Final EIS, Appendix B), the USFWS concurred with the BLM's conclusions for the federally listed species. The Biological Opinion contains conservation measures to protect and recover the four Colorado River native fish and commends voluntary conservation measures for the Graham beardtongue and White River beardtongue. The BLM has adopted the recommended conservation measures and has included these measures in the conditions of approval (Attachment 1).

Section 106 consultation was initiated with the Utah State Historic Preservation Office on February 28, 2005. Consultation was closed on March 14, 2005 with the receipt of a letter from that office stating that USHPO had no comments concerning the RDG EIS.

Consultation was also conducted with the following Tribes: Ute Mountain Ute, White Mesa Ute, Southern Ute, Ute Indian, Hopi, Navajo Nation, Eastern Shoshone, Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation, Laguna Pueblo, Nambe Pueblo, Santa Clara Pueblo, Zia Pueblo, Northwestern Band of Shoshoni Nation, and Acoma Pueblo. One tribe, the Southern Ute Tribe, responded on April 11, 2005. In their response they stated that they did not have objections to the project. No other responses were received.

Coordination on this project was carried out with the following federal, state, and local agencies and governments: Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, Forest Service, Environmental Protection Agency, Utah County Commissioners, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining, State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, Duchesne County Commission, the Uintah County Public Lands Committee, Uinta Basin Association of Governments, and the Uintah County Commission.

### 2.3 Authorizing Actions and Conditions of Approval

RDG is responsible for obtaining all necessary federal, state, and county permits. A list of possible permits and authorizations is presented in Final EIS Tables 1-1 and 1-2.

## **3.0 SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES**

### **3.1 Range of Alternatives**

Four alternatives were evaluated in the EIS: Alternative 1 – Proposed Action, Alternative 2 – Additional Wildlife Considerations, Alternative 3 – Additional Environmental Considerations, and Alternative 4 – No Action.

### **3.2 Alternative 1 – Proposed Action**

The Proposed Action consists of the development of 423 natural gas wells, access roads, support facilities, a transmission pipeline, and a compressor station within the 79,914-acre project area. The development also involves the construction of pipelines for gathering the gas and produced water, and disposing of the produced water. The wells would be drilled on a spacing pattern based on geology and reservoir qualities. Some areas could be developed on a 40-acre spacing pattern while others could be drilled on spacing patterns of 160 acres or larger. It is anticipated that 40-acre well spacing would only be applied in areas of high natural gas production.

The existing road network would be used to the maximum extent practicable to access new wells in order to minimize surface disturbance. All construction and oil and gas drilling and production operations would be managed within the guidelines of regulatory mandates and permits as outlined in Tables 1-1 and 1-2. It would also be in accordance with the BMPs listed in sections 2.1.12 and 2.1.13.

### **3.3 Alternative 2 – Additional Wildlife Considerations (BLM's Selected Alternative)**

Alternative 2 is the Final EIS Agency-Preferred Alternative. This alternative incorporates the same construction, operational, decommissioning, and reclamation components as the Proposed Action, with the addition of the BMPs listed in section 2.2.1, which were identified to address water, soils, riparian, vegetation, deer, sage grouse, raptor, special status plant species, recreation, and visual concerns. The BMPs would not disallow lawful access to develop a federal lease, but they could require the relocation of well pads, roads, and ancillary facilities within the lease. They could also restrict development during certain periods of the year, or require special construction, operational, and reclamation methods to reduce potential environmental impacts.

### **3.4 Alternative 3 – Additional Environmental Considerations (Environmentally Preferred Alternative)**

Alternative 3 addresses recent updates in critical mule deer winter range boundaries for the area as developed by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, as well as recent changes in the inventorying of wilderness characteristics. This alternative incorporates the same operational components as the Proposed Action and most of the environmental considerations as Alternative 2 – Additional Wildlife Considerations. Under Alternative 3, the BMPs (section 2.3.1) that could be applied would result in the expansion of the mule deer winter range boundary, additional sage grouse protections, and the application of USFWS-recommended guidelines for raptor protection.

Under this alternative, a total of 373 wells would be developed (50 fewer wells than Alternatives 1 and 2). The wells eliminated from drilling would include 15 wells in the White River inventory area, 26 wells in the Utah Wilderness Coalition Lower Bitter Creek proposed wilderness unit for which the BLM has prepared a Reasonable Probability Determination that the area may have wilderness characteristics, and 9 wells in the Utah Wilderness Coalition White River proposed wilderness unit for which the BLM has prepared a Reasonable Probability Determination that the area may have wilderness characteristics.

This alternative is the environmentally preferred alternative. The environmentally preferred alternative is determined through regulations, policies, and guidelines issued by the Council on Environmental Quality at 40 CFR 1500. The Additional Environmental Considerations Alternative was selected as the environmentally preferred alternative because it would result in 50 fewer wells than the Proposed Action and Additional Wildlife Considerations alternatives, and because it would apply additional mitigation that would not occur under the other Alternatives. It was not

selected as the preferred alternative because all practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm, short of precluding the 50 wells, has been adopted in the preferred alternative.

### **3.5 Alternative 4 – No Action**

The No Action Alternative is required by NEPA for comparison to other alternatives analyzed in the EIS. For this project, the No Action Alternative is to continue current land use practices, including existing oil and gas production. Historically, since the Book Cliffs RMP ROD was signed in 1985, wells in the area have been drilled at an average rate of 3.5 wells per year (BLM 1988). At this rate approximately 35 to 70 wells would be drilled during the 10 to 20 year period analyzed in this document. For the purpose of analysis, it was assumed that 55 wells would be drilled under the direction of the authority of the Book Cliffs RMP and the lease stipulations.

## **4.0 MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

The decision to authorize Alternative 2 with the BMPs, mitigation measures, and USFWS conservation measures listed in Attachment 1 represents a reasonable management approach that allows gas development on existing leases. The existing natural resources will be maintained by careful management of future surface development through implementation of the attached practices and measures. BLM Onshore Orders and other relevant laws and policies will be followed to ensure the adequacy of natural and cultural resources protection and maintenance through the life of the project. Specific mitigation requirements will be determined during subsequent site-specific NEPA analyses and documentation.

The decision to approve components of the RDG Uintah Basin Natural Gas Project includes consideration of the following factors:

1. **Consistency with land use and resource management plans.** The proposed development, as modified by the decisions contained in the ROD, is consistent with the oil and gas leasing and surface management guidance contained in the BCRMP.
2. **Public involvement, scoping issues, and Draft EIS comments.** The public and agency involvement process for this project met the NEPA requirements for public involvement. These opportunities included: a) the Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS, which initiated the scoping process; b) an agency stakeholder meeting that provided reviewing agencies an opportunity to describe project issues and potential mitigation; c) a public scoping meeting prior to preparing the Draft EIS; d) a public comment period for the draft EIS; e) a public meeting held in Salt Lake City during the public comment period; f) responses to written comments received on the draft EIS which are included as Appendix A of the final EIS; and g) a 30 day public availability period of the final EIS.
3. **Management considerations based upon agency and public comments received.**

The following issues resulted in the development of additional mitigation measures, and additional criteria for locating wells and ancillary facilities in the project area:

- Protection, maintenance, and recovery of wildlife habitat and sensitive species were a primary issue. BLM's responses to these issues are reflected in additional mitigation measures to protect raptor nests, reduce the potential loss of browse habitat in crucial mule deer winter range, protect sage grouse habitat and strutting grounds, and protect suitable habitat and populations of Graham beardtongue and White River beardtongue. These mitigation measures are incorporated into the conditions of approval listed in Attachment 1.
- The long-term health of the riparian systems, floodplains, and water quality within the project area was a primary issue. Measures to address this issue include constraining new surface-disturbing activities on slopes greater than 40%, no new surface disturbance in delineated riparian areas or floodplains, and measures to control the spread of weeds and improve the rate and quality of

vegetation recovery on disturbed surfaces. These mitigation measures are incorporated into the conditions of approval listed in Attachment 1.

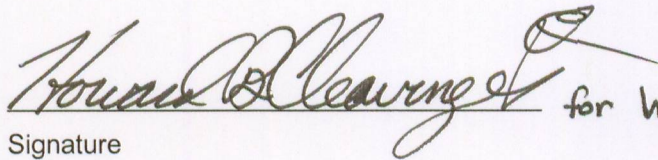
The following issues are hereby clarified:

- No adverse effect to cultural resources will occur through implementation of this decision. Section 106 consultation for this project was initiated on February 28, 2005 and was concluded on March 10, 2005. No concerns were raised during the consultation process. Site-specific review of cultural impacts and site-specific section 106 consultation will be deferred until a specific project application is received. Should impacts to cultural resources be identified during the review of any site-specific applications, avoidance and other mitigation, will be developed through the site-specific NEPA process.
  - Directionally drilling the entire field was considered but eliminated from detailed analysis in the EIS. However, the EIS and this ROD do not preclude the use of directional drilling on a site-specific basis. Consideration will be given to directional drilling during the review of any site-specific applications, and will be implemented where appropriate to avoid unnecessary or undue degradation of the environment.
  - Prior to surface disturbing activities (pads, roads, or pipeline construction), surveys for Graham beardtongue and White River beardtongue plants and suitable habitat will be conducted. Areas of identified suitable habitat and populations will be avoided.
4. **Agency Statutory Requirements.** The EIS/ROD is consistent with federal, state, and county authorizing actions based on consultation with agency representatives. Applicants for site-specific projects will be responsible for obtaining additional federal, state, and local approvals as outlined in the Final EIS Tables 1-1 and 1-2.
5. **National Policy.** Private exploration and development of federal oil and gas leases is an integral part of the BLM oil and gas leasing program under the authority of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. Authorization for the lessees to exercise their rights in developing oil and gas leases is necessary to encourage development of domestic oil and gas reserves. The consideration of valid existing rights was a key factor in determining the range of reasonable alternatives, explained in Section 3.0 above.
6. **Measures to avoid or minimize environmental harm.** BMPs are integrated into the action alternatives analyzed in the Final EIS and are included in Chapter 2 of the document. The BLM has developed mitigation measures in the Final EIS to address environmental issues and avoid or minimize identified sources of potential environmental harm. The FWS identified conservation measures that would avoid or minimize potential impacts to Threatened or Endangered species. These practices and measures are included as conditions of approval in this ROD (Attachment 1). These practices and measures were based on preliminary data from over 50 years of oil and gas operations in the Uinta Basin, as well as the input of BLM's technical specialists, other agencies, and the public.



Signature Page  
For  
Resource Development Group Uintah Basin Natural Gas Project  
Record of Decision

Signature and Title of Responsible Official:

 for William Stringer

Signature

Field Manager

Title

08/07/2006

Date

**APPEALS:** The decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR Part 4. Public notification of this decision will be considered to have occurred on the above signature date. Within 30 days of the decision, a notice of appeal must be filed in the office of the authorized officer at 170 South 500 East, Vernal, UT, 84078. If a statement of reasons for the appeal is not included with the notice, it must be filed with the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy St., Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203 within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed with the authorized officer.

If you wish to file a petition for stay pursuant to 43 CFR Part 4.21(b), the petition for stay should accompany your notice of appeal and shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
- (3) The likelihood of irreparable harm to the appellant or resources if the stay is not granted, and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

If a petition for stay is submitted with the notice of appeal, a copy of the notice of appeal and petition for stay must be served on each party named in the decision from which the appeal is taken, and with the IBLA at the same time it is filed with the authorized officer.

A copy of the notice of appeal, any statement of reasons and all pertinent documents must be served on each adverse party named in the decision from which the appeal is taken and the Office of the Regional Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior, 6201 Federal Building, 125 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1180, not later than 15 days after filing the document with the authorized officer and/or IBLA.

**ATTACHMENT 1**



**Table 1. Project Implementation and Conditions of Approval for the RDG Uintah Basin Natural Gas Project**

<b>Operator Committed BMPs</b>	<b>Additional Conditions of Approval</b>	<b>Mitigation Measures</b>	<b>USFWS Conservation Measures</b>	
				<b>WATER RESOURCES</b>
	<b>X</b>			Avoid blasting for well locations or geophysical operations within ¼ mile of a spring or water well.
		<b>X</b>		Design and construct drill pads and facility sites to prevent overland flow of water from entering or leaving the sites. Stormwater shall be diverted around sites.
		<b>X</b>		Design roads to divert stormwater runoff and reduce erosion through the proper design and installation of erosion control structures, such as water bars and diversion channels.
		<b>X</b>		Spills, leaks, and contaminated soils will be cleaned up, excavated, or treated to prevent pollution to surface or groundwater.
		<b>X</b>		Prior to any surface disturbance, BLM will assess the need to line reserve pits.
		<b>X</b>		Avoid drilling wells and seismic shotholes in the 100-year floodplains of Saddletree Draw, Atchees Wash, Long Draw, and Asphalt Wash and its tributaries to reduce impacts to shallow alluvial aquifers.
		<b>X</b>		Site all roads and well pads as far from permanent water sources as possible. New construction is prohibited within ¼ mile of the flowing wells within Asphalt Wash, and the center fork of Asphalt Wash.
				<b>AIR QUALITY</b>
	<b>X</b>			Apply water and/or chemical suppressants as determined by the AO to minimize fugitive particulate emissions and entrained dust during construction of access roads and during drilling operations at well pads.

Operator Committed BMPs	Additional Conditions of Approval	Mitigation Measures	USFWS Conservation Measures	
	X			All mobile or stationary combustion sources used during the construction phase of this project shall be regularly maintained and kept in good working condition.
		X		To further reduce fugitive dust, project operators would establish and enforce speed limits (15-30 mph) on all project-required roads in and adjacent to the RDG Project Area as required by the AO.
				<b>SOILS / WATERSHED / FLOODPLAIN RESOURCES</b>
X				For final reclamation re-contour all disturbed areas, including access roads, to the original contour or a contour that blends with the surrounding topography.
X		X		Erosion control for surface disturbances from grading of well sites and access roads shall consist of building sediment retention structures down gradient from these facilities on an as-needed basis. As conditions dictate, and as determined by the AO, diversion ditches shall be constructed around the pad. Where this occurs, then the ditches shall be designed to return the diverted water back to the original channel. If it is not feasible to return diverted water back to its original channel, then the water shall be diverted to the nearest channel, with energy dissipating devices installed to prevent channel degradation.
	X			RDG operators shall construct sediment basins to retain sediment from construction of multiple wells and their associated access roads as determined by the AO. Sediment basins shall be sized based on slope, soil permeability, and land cover type to hold runoff resulting from a 25-year, 6-hour storm event.
	X	X		No occupancy or other surface disturbance will be allowed on slopes in excess of 40 percent without the written permission of the AO of the SMA.
	X			No well pads will be developed within the designated 100-year floodplain of Bitter Creek.
		X		Avoid locating well pads within active drainages

Operator Committed BMPs	Additional Conditions of Approval	Mitigation Measures	USFWS Conservation Measures	
		X		All wells placed on the terrace adjacent to the active drainage of designated 100-year floodplains shall have a closed system during drilling and production operations.
		X		To the fullest extent possible, access roads proposed in valley/drainage bottoms shall be sited on the toe of the adjacent slope to the valley bottom. Roads shall have appropriate energy dissipaters (e.g., water bars, silt fences) where water leaves the road and is routed towards an adjacent drainage.
		X		Well pads adjacent to drainages shall be bermed to prevent runoff from entering the drainage, as directed by the AO.
				<b>VEGETATION RESOURCES</b>
X				Interim reclamation of a well's location and access roads shall be completed soon after the well is put into production.
	X	X	X	All noxious weed infestations associated with wellsite, well facilities, roads, or ROWs constructed or improved for this project, shall be treated by the applicant to control noxious weed infestations. Weed treatment protocols will be specified in the pesticide use permit approval process.
		X		Construction equipment entering BLM lands shall be power-washed to eliminate noxious weed seeds.
		X		If a re-seeding attempt is unsuccessful, additional seeding by the applicant will be required until revegetation is successful, as determined by the AO. Chemical treatment of cheatgrass may be required if density of this species on the sites will limit the success of re-seeding.
		X		RDG shall close and rehabilitate unnecessary roads and trails as directed by the AO.

Operator Committed BMPs	Additional Conditions of Approval	Mitigation Measures	USFWS Conservation Measures	
				<b>RIPARIAN / WETLAND RESOURCES</b>
	X	X		Avoid surface-disturbing activities within 100 m of all delineated riparian/wetland areas from the 1993/1994 BLM riparian inventory/classification.
				<b>WILDLIFE RESOURCES</b>
	X			Restrict surface disturbing activities within ¼ mile of important watering locations, such as guzzlers and free-flowing water wells.
	X	X		<p>RDG will conduct mitigation or enhancement of 1.5 acres for every acre of surface disturbance within browse habitat on 12,785 acres of BCRMP-identified crucial mule deer winter range, as determined by the AO. The enhancement should be conducted on public lands within RMP-designated crucial mule deer winter range within the RDG Project Area and could consist of activities such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pinyon-juniper cuttings or pushovers;</li> <li>• pinyon-juniper prescribed burns and re-seedings</li> <li>• decadent sagebrush bottom burns and re-seedings;</li> <li>• greasewood control;</li> <li>• invasive plant control;</li> <li>• re-seeding of wildfire areas;</li> <li>• browse plantings;</li> <li>• guzzler maintenance;</li> <li>• water developments;</li> <li>• closure and re-seeding of unnecessary roads; and</li> <li>• winter closure of some access roads</li> </ul> <p>If the AO determines the on-site mitigation is inadequate within the BCRMP crucial winter range, RDG operators would be encouraged to perform off-site mitigation within the UDWR-identified critical deer winter range.</p>

Operator Committed BMPs	Additional Conditions of Approval	Mitigation Measures	USFWS Conservation Measures	
	X	X		No drilling of wells or construction will be allowed on BLM-administered land within the BCRMP designated crucial mule deer winter range or UDWR identified critical mule deer winter range from January 1 through March 1, as allowed by 43 CFR 3101.1-2. A waiver, exception, or modification may be granted by the AO.
X		X		Transmission lines shall be buried as determined by the AO, and power poles shall be designed to discourage their use as perching or nesting substrates by birds
	X	X		No power lines or electrical transmission lines that provide perch sites for raptors shall be built within 2 miles (3 km) of sage grouse habitat.
	X	X		Avoid year-round surface disturbance within 300 feet of identified sage grouse strutting grounds.
	X			No work over operations will be allowed from March 1 through June 30 without written approval from the AO.
	X	X		No surface occupancy shall be allowed within the recommended nesting constraint distances of an active nest as described in Table 2-5 in the EIS, and as listed below, unless the proposed activities are topographically concealed from the active nest, or unless artificial nesting structures (ANSs) are constructed. If ANS mitigation is used, raptor ANSs shall be constructed to allow raptors to switch from natural nesting sites to artificial ones. The ANSs shall be in place at least two years prior to any development occurring within ¼ mile of a natural nest to allow the raptors the opportunity to accept or reject the new structure.
	X	X		Protect raptors by restricting construction and surface-disturbing activities year-round within ½ mile of golden eagle nests that have been active within the past two years. However, surface disturbing activities may be allowed within ¼ mile of an active nest if a site-specific analysis determines that terrain features adequately protect the nest site from proposed surface-disturbing activity.



Operator Committed BMPs	Additional Conditions of Approval	Mitigation Measures	USFWS Conservation Measures	
	X	X		Restrict construction and surface disturbing activities year-round within ½ mile of active ferruginous hawk and bald eagle nests. A site-specific analysis shall be completed to determine if terrain features adequately protect the nest site from proposed ground-disturbing activity.
	X	X		Restrict construction and surface disturbing activities year-round within 1 mile of known peregrine falcon nests.
	X			No surface disturbing activities will be allowed within ½ mile of active burrowing owl nests from April 1 through July 15.
	X	X		No surface disturbing activity will be allowed within the specified distance and timing constraints shown in Table 2-5 in the Final EIS.
	X			Field personnel will be instructed to contact Division of Wildlife Resources for removal of carcasses on state and county roads.
		X		BLM or a BLM –approved biologist shall conduct site-specific field surveys for Mexican Spotted Owl (MSO) within the fair habitat identified within the RDG Project Area (SWCA, 2005). The surveys shall be conducted according to FWS protocol. If necessary, timing and/or other restrictions shall be employed to provide MSO protection. Restrictions may be implemented after consultation with the USFWS.
		X		Avoid developing loop roads within UDWR-identified critical mule deer winter range.
		X		Construction will not take place during the songbird and neotropical migratory bird breeding season (April 1 through July 15). If construction is proposed to take place during that time, site-specific surveys will be conducted to determine the presence or absence of bird nests. An exception or modification will be granted if no nests are present.

Operator Committed BMPs	Additional Conditions of Approval	Mitigation Measures	USFWS Conservation Measures	
				<b>SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES</b>
		X	X	Prior to surface disturbing activities (pads, roads, or pipeline construction), surveys for Graham beardtongue and White River beardtongue plants and suitable habitat will be conducted. Areas of identified suitable habitat and populations will be avoided
	X			Avoid surface disturbance activities in special status plant habitats. Site-specific evaluations by the BLM may allow for a waiver, exception, or modification to this requirement.
		X		Implement a road-signing program to limit access in those areas known to contain populations or suitable habitat for Graham beardtongue and White River beardtongue as determined by the AO.
			X	Where construction of roads and well pads will be upslope of Graham beardtongue and/or White River beardtongue habitat, establish a buffer to alleviate concentrated water flows and increased sedimentation into habitat.
				<b>CULTURAL RESOURCES</b>
	X			A BLM-approved archaeologist will conduct a Class III pedestrian survey of all well pad sites and access roads proposed for surface disturbance prior to beginning construction. Should the operator wish to facilitate the processing of the application, they may contract a BLM-approved archaeologist to conduct the survey.
	X	X		Avoid any cultural resources or historic properties found in the Project Area that are recommended or determined to be eligible for the NRHP by adjusting facility locations or mitigating, monitoring, or salvaging.

Operator Committed BMPs	Additional Conditions of Approval	Mitigation Measures	USFWS Conservation Measures	
	X			If cultural resources are discovered during surface disturbance, operations that could further damage the resource will be suspended. The BLM's AO will be contacted, and arrangements made to determine the discovery's significance and, if necessary, to mitigate or avoid it. Mitigation will be appropriate to the scope of the project, the nature of the resource at risk, and adherence to the provisions of 36 CFR 800 and other regulatory guidelines. Consultation with other interested parties, will occur per regulation. Data collected during mitigation shall be placed in an approved repository.
				<b>PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES</b>
	X	X		As determined by the BLM AO, paleontology surveys will be conducted on site specific applications.
	X			If vertebrate fossils are discovered during surface disturbance, operations that could further damage the resource will be suspended. The BLM's AO will be contacted, and arrangements made to determine the discovery's significance and, if necessary, to mitigate or avoid it. Fossils and data collected during mitigation shall be placed in an approved repository
	X			RDG will instruct construction workers that vandalism and/or theft of paleontological resources will not be tolerated.
				<b>RECREATION / VISUAL RESOURCES</b>
		X		Segments of pipelines shall be buried beneath road crossings, and in other locations as determined by the BLM AO to provide a 15-foot-wide access.
X		X		As required by the AO, production related facilities on public lands will be painted a flat, non-reflective color (e.g., olive black) that is compatible with the surrounding landscape. The color will be chosen on the on-site inspection. Operators shall consult with the BLM, during the on-site inspection, on the use of topographic and vegetative screening to locate wells in order to minimize visual impacts.

Operator Committed BMPs	Additional Conditions of Approval	Mitigation Measures	USFWS Conservation Measures	
		X		As directed by the AO, use low-profile tanks.
X		X		Where topography permits, well sites shall be positioned to prevent "sky lining." Roads and well pads shall be located to avoid steep side slopes and ridgelines visible from the White River and the Goblin City overlook.
X		X		Facilities shall be located in a manner that utilizes existing vegetation and topographic features to screen wells, facilities, and roads from the viewshed of the Goblin City Overlook within a 5-mile radius of the Overlook.
	X	X		No construction, drilling, or completion operations shall be allowed from May 15 to June 30 within the 5-mile viewshed of the Goblin City Overlook.
	X			Straight line-of-sight bulldozing should be avoided. Access roads will incorporate a reduced-contrast, curvilinear path design where practicable.
				<b>GENERAL</b>
X				All roads shall be constructed to Gold Book standards.
X				Where possible, facilities will use existing utility or ROW corridors.